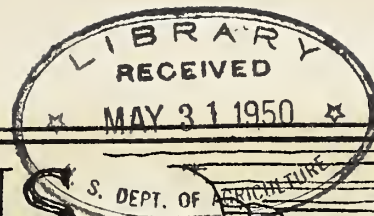


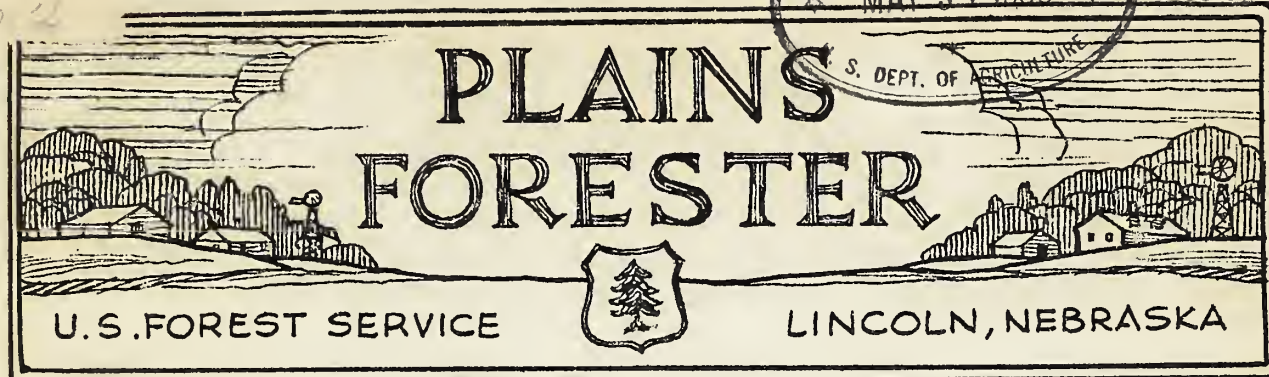
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Vol. 3, No. 4

April 1938

A FABLE

Recently during the course of a field inspection trip one of our State Directors told me the following fable:

Once there were two men who were good friends and were engaged in similar professional occupations. Both of these men were highly regarded by all who knew them, as being honest and capable. One day while talking to a professional acquaintance John, who had just had a trifling argument with James, and whose tongue was more or less loose at both ends anyway, made the remark that James appeared to be "slipping." Unfortunately this man took John seriously and soon the story spread that James was on the downgrade and was no longer capable of performing his work. The inevitable result was that James' career suffered a serious set-back.

John, seeing the damage his unintentional remark had brought about, sought the advice of his religious counselor as to how to undo the injury he had done his friend. This counselor was old and wise, and after hearing John's story, advised him to take a bag of goose down and on a day when the wind was high, go about the countryside throwing small handfuls of this down into the air to be scattered by the wind. After completing this assignment he was to return to the counselor for further instructions on how to right the wrong he had done.

John faithfully followed the counselor's advice, and one day when the wind was blowing went about the countryside throwing small handfuls of goose down into the air. Needless to say, the down was blown far and wide. He then returned to the counselor and asked for further instructions. Much to his surprise, the counselor told him to go out and gather up all the goose down he had scattered about the country and bring it to him.

Since John was aware that it was physically impossible to pick up all the down he had scattered, he protested to the counselor that it could not be done. The counselor replied, "My son, the goose down you have scattered is no more difficult to gather up than the gossip you started about your friend James."

- Harold E. Engstrom, R.O.

#### NEW POISON BAIT

During the last winter, we have been doing considerable experimental work with an alfalfa meal and salt formula, worked on by H. R. Wells and myself while working on the old Shelterbelt Project in 1935 and 1936. This was brought about by a remark made by the State Director about how convenient some porcupine wafers were which we were using on cottontails. This immediately set us to cogitating upon this problem. The result was that we have perfected a simple method of pressing the mixture into wafers  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ". These have been on test since the last of November and results have been very satisfactory.

We found that the rabbits would uncover the blocks after they were buried from six to ten inches with snow. We have found kills consistently throughout the winter. Salt blocks filled with these wafers require a great deal less maintenance than the regular salt formula and work more consistently the year around. They are much easier to handle than grain baits and are cheaper; also, we have had much more success in getting the cooperators to put these out as it requires considerably less work.

These wafers are stamped Poison and sacked in units of 30, and the cooperator is given enough of them to cover his strip. These wafers are pressed into 2" x 4" salt blocks which are nailed to 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  foot lath. These stakes are driven into the ground so that the block is left 6" above ground level. It has been found that this attracts rabbits in addition to keeping the block from being covered during cultivation.

Some of these wafers have been on the test plots for over 90 days without being refilled. Over ten inches of snow fell during this time, and the wafers are still effective.

- Carroll F. Orendurff, Nebr.

#### AG COLLEGE MEN PARTICIPATE IN NORTH DAKOTA TRAINING MEET

The training meeting began April 4 at the Courthouse, with about 20 in attendance, including District Officers, Nurserymen, assistants and temporary junior foremen appointees. Phases of the training follow the four-step method, insofar as they deal with work that can be done inside. The Extension Forester, John Thompson, was down from Bottineau for two days.

A trip for actual field training was made on Wednesday, but the ground was still too frozen to do any work. This will be tried again Saturday, as the weather is gradually growing warmer.

A schedule of conference assignments was prepared, and most of the new men are showing an intelligent assimilation of the subjects and responding well in explaining it in open meeting. A follow-up is being planned on field training when planting actually begins.

On Friday the following men from the Agricultural College Extension Service were in attendance: Assistant County Agent Leader, E. J. Haselrud; District County Agent Supervisors Challey, Jensen, Gregory, and Brush, representing the four County Agent Districts of the State; Mr. Butcher, Extension Entomologist and three assistants in grasshopper control. Mr. Haselrud spoke



at some length on the general set-up of the Extension Service and its functions through the County Agents. Mr. Butcher presented in detail the grasshopper situation and methods of control. He also showed egg pods and young grasshoppers. A short field trip was made to show the men grasshopper eggs and their location and depth. Mr. Challey explained the AAA Agricultural Conservation Program and how it affects the farmers receiving trees from the Forest Service.

The Extension people were very appreciative of the opportunity to learn at first-hand what we were doing and no doubt much good will come of this more intimate association.

- F. E. Cobb, N.Dak.

#### INCREASED TRAFFIC IN NURSERY STOCK

In a recent letter State Director Reitz of Kansas says:

"You will be interested in an observation which I have made during the past week on a field trip out over various parts of Kansas. I have been riding on a train to some extent, and I notice particularly the large number of packages of trees which are being unloaded from these baggage cars at every station where a train of any consequence stops.

"Of course it would be impossible to tell how this compares with the number of trees shipped in other years, but it would seem that the numbers must be greatly increased over those which have been sent out by nurserymen in the past several years. It is one of the most important phases of the express business just now in this State. I am inclined to think, and a good many of the men whom I have talked with this past week tell me the same thing, that the great emphasis being placed on forest tree planting by this Project is causing a great awakening in tree consciousness on the part of the people in this State. The number of trees planted by all agencies, public and private and individually, should reach a new high this season."

#### REGION NINE'S HEAVY ARTILLERY

During calendar year 1937, Region Nine personnel made 801 addresses to 88,780 people, according to "Daily Contact." 151 of the talks were made by Regional Office personnel to 26,601 auditors, while the field put on a real show with 650 to audiences totaling 62,179. The Ottawa Forest made the greatest number of speeches, with 96, but the Manistee reached the greatest number of people - 9,714. It is on the Superior that they really pack them in the aisles, though - 30 addresses were given on that Forest to a total of 6,444 people.

There, brethren, is something to shoot at!

#### HOLY TEXAS

That Texas is really in the "Bible Belt" is now firmly established. According to the Childress (Texas) Index, "The Turkey shelterbelt area is one of the most consecrated sections in the United States, and one of the most outstanding projects of the U. S. Forest department."

No doubt the writer said "concentrated," but we are willing to subscribe to both assertions with a hearty "Amen."

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

### WILDLIFE WEEK GETS A BIG HAND IN TEXAS

If Wildlife Week received as much attention back in the UNITED STATES as it did in this TEXAS community, we would all have reason for feeling optimistic toward the chances of protection for our wildlife and the conservation of our natural resources. Three organizations, that I know of, gave special programs which were appreciated by their members.

One of the local out-door enthusiasts spoke at Rotary luncheon concerning the conservation of wildlife in this community, and the reason that such conservation is desirable. This speaker made quite a play of the information obtained in a survey by the Automobile Manufacturers' Association which indicates that sports represent the fourth or fifth greatest use of cars.

At the Field and Stream Club's annual banquet in observance of Wildlife Week, the program was quite unique in that the local Baptist Minister was the main speaker of the evening and used as his text, "Never Again Will I Kill Every Living Thing." Under that heading the talk included much good wildlife management material and stressed the conservation-through-use phase of the subject. This speaker spoke highly of the Forest Service plantings in this region. Several Game Wardens attending this banquet told of wildlife rehabilitation work that is going on in this and neighboring counties. Wilbarger County is said to have approximately 50 thousand acres in game refuges. Incidentally this acreage includes a number of field shelterbelt plantings.

At the Lions Club luncheon (this meal was on Croker), State Senator O'Neal gave an outstanding summary of what has been done toward the conservation of game in Texas and particularly in this community. Senator O'Neal stressed the importance of selling the farmer on this work and permitting him to realize benefits from his cooperation with local sporting clubs in the form of remuneration for game leases. These game leases would be patterned after the deer hunting lease now used by ranchers in South Texas, whereunder a group of sportsmen lease the deer-hunting privilege on the ranch, thus encouraging the owner to maintain a good supply of game.

- Raymond L. Buskirk, Tex.

### IMPROVING ON MOTHER NATURE

It was previously reported that the 1936 crop of hackberry seed gave fine results when the depulped seed was stratified for 60 days or longer, but that the whole berries treated similarly showed zero germination of some samples and 7% as the highest obtained from these lots. Similar results were noted from Texas hackberry sown at Mangum, Oklahoma.

To determine whether this was just some peculiarity of that year's crop, a similar test was run on 1937 seed from the E and F Zones of Nebraska. At the end of 60 days' stratification the depulped seed yielded 52% and 53% respective germinations, most of the emergence occurring on the 4th to 9th days after sowing. The samples stratified as whole berries yielded 5% and 6% germinations respectively and occurring during the 10th to 20th days after sowing.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.



## KANSAS STATE OFFICE HELPS COLLEGE IN LAND PLANNING

The Kansas Extension Service is sponsoring an Extension Project in county planning. In conducting the project, Mr. C. R. Jaccard serves as State Extension Leader. Taking a county at a time and usually spending two days in each county, an analysis is made of the history, development, and problems which affect the agricultural industry in the county. Usually one farmer from each township attends the county planning meeting, and from 10 to 20 farmers may be present.

The first day is devoted to a discussion of background information. The Extension Leader presents information on the crop yields, crop acreages, and livestock history for the last 25 years. The Soil Conservation Service presents information on soil types, land use, slope and erosion. The Farm Security Administration presents information on the amount of money distributed in grants and loans and the location of grant and loan clients. The Forest Service representative discusses Plains forestry as applied to the county in question, giving information on acreage now in timber, need for care of existing timber, need for tree planting, and special problem areas as flood lands or blow lands.

Following these discussions the farmers are asked to recite the conditions in their township with respect to farmsteads, trends in size of farms, tenancy, special problems such as flood, existing pasture and need for pasture, existing timber, tax delinquency, rural schools and other items.

The county is then mapped into type of farming areas and recommendations are made for the treatment of each area. Lands best suited to cash grain farming, timber production, livestock farming, and general farming are designated and described. These recommendations are made from the long time point of view. No particular way of carrying out the recommendations is designated.

These recommendations will serve as a guide to the various agencies who may be carrying on action programs. The ACP County Committees can more intelligently recommend soil conservation practices for a given farm by using these recommendations. The Farm Security Administration can do a better job of guiding their clients. The Extension Service intends to shape its program to fit the conditions in the county and specialists will shape their efforts to meet the needs of the various sections of the county. The Forest Service will know what the forestry recommendations are and the forestry conditions and can shape the farm forestry program to meet these conditions. The Soil Conservation Service can follow these recommendations in working up farm plans and in treating the problems in soil conservation.

During the past five years, 21 counties in southwest Kansas in the "dust bowl" region have been completed. Efforts are now being made to adapt action programs to bring about the fulfillment of the recommendations. The Federal purchase program is guided by these recommendations for one thing. This spring 15 counties in southeast Kansas are being studied. Probably this fall the Flint Hills pasture region consisting of 12 counties can be completed. The Forest Service can assist in these counties, using information collected in the 1937 Range Conservation Program.

The Secretary of Agriculture has requested that these county planning studies be carried on in all the States. They will have important correlation values.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

## NEW METHOD OF LIVESTOCK CONTROL

We have prided ourselves on accepting cooperators who wanted trees for trees alone and not for those benefits that might accrue from ACP payments, etc., but it seems as though we "slipped up" in one instance. Recently it was called to our attention that one of our present cooperators when first contacted by a negotiator was not overly enthusiastic about a shelterbelt until the rodent control phase was mentioned. At this point the farmer displayed much more interest and the strip was staked out within half an hour. Upon learning the facts of the case, it was deemed advisable to have a representative of the Service contact this man and, if possible, to determine whether or not our record of having none but the best cooperators was being marred. To make a long story short, a representative contacted the farmer and found that the man was in need of more poison, in fact was even willing to come in after it. "You know," he said, "this is the first time in years that I haven't been bothered with my neighbor's stock!"

But he is a good cooperator, just the same, and we are still providing the means for keeping the neighbor's stock out.

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And speaking of rodents, one foreman claims he saw two rabbits kill a third because the unfortunate was eating only one row of trees at a time!

- Floyd W. Hougland, Nebr.

## VEHICLE ACCIDENT CAUSES AND REMEDIES

An article in "Telephony" magazine by Fred W. Kunkel shows careless driving, rather than speed, road and car conditions, to be the main cause of auto accidents in a large telephone company's fleet investigation.

Some men had accidents with regular frequency, and the graph of predicted accidents for each man in this class showed startling accuracy as to time such a man would have his third, fifth or seventh accident.

Training, cash bonus, or fines had no appreciable effect on these accident-prone cases. Finally intelligence tests were made and it was found these accident-prone drivers had either a surprisingly low mentality or visual or other physical defects. Their transfer to other work only resulted in personal injury accidents instead of vehicle accidents. After elimination of men who were accident-prone, the company reduced its accidents 43 percent in the first six months. The company could not afford to retain accident-prone men in its employ as they were a menace to other employees as well as themselves.

- Region 4 "Daily News"

## YOU FIGURE IT OUT

Just in case you may have occasion to figure the capacity of a gasoline tank, oil drum or water tank of cylindrical shape, the following simple method may be of interest:

If the dimensions are in feet -

Square of diameter x length x 5.875 = Capacity in gallons

If the dimensions are in inches -

Square of diameter x length x .0034 = Capacity in gallons

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.



## POTTAWATOMIE INDIANS SET PLANTING STANDARDS IN KANSAS

Twenty-six miles of strip were planted on the Pottawatomie Indian Reservation at Mayetta, Kansas, with Wayne C. Whitney and the Indians in active cooperation. All of the work was done by Indian planters using Forest Service planting shovels, planting boxes, and methods. The high quality of the work done on the Reservation and the early completion of the work leads me to believe that our highest survival for the 1938 season will be on the Reservation.

All strips were first plowed and subsoiled, then planted, and immediately followed with a one-row corn cultivator astride each row. The very excellent job of planting by the Indians, and the splendid and whole-hearted cooperation of everybody concerned on the Reservation made this project both pleasant and worth while.

The Pottawatomie Reservation is doing a large amount of improvement work in the way of road grading, road surfacing, terrace construction, gully control dams, contour farming, pond construction, etc., indicating that our Indian neighbors are well on the way to becoming more progressive in their farming methods than we are. Fencing operations and tree planting on the strips indicate that the Pottawatomie Indians are setting a standard of tree planting which may well be copied by our other districts.

The tree-planting operations on the Reservation cost but a small figure in proportion to the cost of the other improvements that are going forward, but I can foresee that at the end of ten year's time the tree strips will stand out, distinctly outshining all other improvements. Mr. H. E. Bruce, Superintendent, and Mr. P. Everett Sperry, Project Manager, both deserve credit for their foresight in carrying out these improvements.

Mr. Whitney has completed the planting supervision and has been moved to Larned, but is restless and still yearns for his wigwam at Mayetta. Wayne's naturally sympathetic nature led him into activities not listed as standard in the work plans. At the little white school house entertainment, Wayne saved the beautiful "school marm" heroine from harrowing dangers in true Buck Jones fashion. I am undecided whether Wayne's homing tendencies come from a concern for *Gymnocladus dioica* or for Minnehaha.

- W. G. Baxter, Kans.

## ASK, AND YE SHALL RECEIVE'

A new method of approach to the subsoiling job is being tried in one of the sub-units of the Neligh District, and it is proving very satisfactory.

Don Harmon, Supervisory Strawboss on the O'Neill Unit, wanted to try having the cooperators do the subsoiling on their own strips. We were to furnish a one-row lister with subsoiler attachment and a man to assist the farmer in flagging the first row and to act as a helper on the outfit. We were very dubious of the scheme but finally decided to spend four dollars for a second-hand lister and another four bucks for overhauling it and attaching the subsoiler.

The cooperation received from the landowners has been far better than we expected and after a few wrinkles were ironed out we were able to get a good job of subsoiling with the outfit. The results have been so satisfactory that we now have four of these outfits operating in the O'Neill Unit and the cooperators are waiting their turns to use them for a week in advance.

One small truck and three men are required to properly operate two subsoiling units. With this organization one man can always be with each of the subsoilers and the third man is free to use the truck in moving the outfits from one place to another.

Now comes the part we all got a "kick" out of. A tractor was rented in a town in Harmon's Unit, anticipating it would be needed for his use in order for him to do the work when the landowner declined. When told we had rented a tractor for his use he requested that we not start it in his unit but asked for two more listers for the cooperators to operate. His argument was that if the cooperator knew we were doing subsoiling with our own tractors we would have it all to do and there is no question that he is right (remember the cultivation work we did last summer and how everyone waited for us to cultivate the strips?).

Eaton adds another to the above "Believe It or Not" tale. The tractor we rented in Harmon's Unit was taken to a strip to try out the subsoiler and attachments. The tractor had no more than arrived at the strip when the cooperator was seen coming up the field with his tractor. Upon arrival at the strip he insisted that he wanted to do the subsoiling with his own tractor. After we explained that we wanted to try out the rented tractor he finally condescended to let us use it - on the condition that he be allowed to drive it! How's that for cooperation?

- E. Garth Champagne, Nebr.

#### WINTER WHEAT CROP MAKES NEGOTIATIONS DIFFICULT

Probably the most difficult of all activities in the tree-planting program in Kansas, year after year, is the negotiation phase of our work.

At times, it is disconcerting to watch the miles negotiated "pile up" in other States while Kansas holds her steady way, eventually securing her mileage, but usually squeezing in just before the door slams, and sometimes getting nipped in the process.

One factor is the principal reason for this - the winter wheat crop which covers most of our planting territory. In other States most of the mileage is negotiated before a crop has been set out. In Kansas, negotiations have always begun after wheat has been drilled in and has already sprouted. Thus the stock of PSFP booms in dry, dust-stormy weather when the wheat is blown out, but drops after invigorating rains have stimulated wheat growth.

A survey of 100 Forms 200-PSFP selected at random reveals that 30% of the strips negotiated in the Hutchinson District (believed to be true in other districts also) is on land already drilled to wheat. Also 10% of the strips negotiated were later cancelled due to the best prospects in years of bumper wheat crops. Despite these drawbacks Kansas will secure her quota.

We hope to have easier times next year, as negotiations for 1939 will commence in May, and we should have much of our signing-up completed before the wheat is drilled in next fall.

- Karl F. Ziegler, Kans.



## GREEN ASH

(Fraxinus Pennsylvania var. lanceolata Sarg.)

Few of us will hesitate to give green ash one of the foremost rankings among species adapted to Plains planting. It is one of the true native species throughout our entire zone of operations, and with the exception of cottonwood, probably more of it has been planted throughout the Plains region than any of the other natives.

Under favorable conditions the green ash is long-lived, growing into a straight tree sometimes 50 feet or more in height. It is generally free of limbs for much of its height and has a symmetrical, rounded, quite dense top. Its foliage is clear dark green which serves to give the tree a pleasing, fresh appearance.

The green ash is an ideal tree to include in a mixed planting, since it is fairly tolerant of shade and is not inclined to dominate the stand at the expense of the other species. The "sociability" of this species makes it particularly valuable for shelterbelt planting when a number of species are included in the composition. However, it also does well in pure stands as demonstrated by the many fine green ash woodlots and farmstead plantings that may be observed throughout the Plains.

As a lawn or shade tree and also as a street tree, the species has met with wide approval and can nearly always be safely recommended. Under certain conditions other species will serve this same purpose equally well or better, but when difficult soil and moisture conditions exist and one is in doubt as to what species to plant, the green ash should be given consideration.

In contrast to many of our shelterbelt species which are "finicky" with respect to soil and moisture relationship, the green ash has proved adaptable throughout a wide range of conditions. It will, of course, do best under the most favorable conditions, but it will prove tenacious even on dry and somewhat alkaline soils. Extremes of drought, heat, and cold seldom disturb the even temperament of this species.

Ordinarily ash is considered a slow-growing species. This belief is perhaps due to the fact that it has been widely planted under the most adverse conditions where fast-growing species seldom thrive very long. Under those circumstances its growth is slow but persistent, and even though it may be overshadowed by the faster-growing species early in life, these species are generally overtaken by the time the plantation is from 10 to 20 years old. However, under favorable conditions the green ash will generally prove an able competitor to nearly all of our species insofar as growth rate is concerned.

Except for the wood-boring insect commonly called the carpenter worm (Prionoxystus robiniae) and the ash borer (Podosesia fraxini) there are no very serious adversities affecting the green ash in our zone of operations. These two insects have in some cases caused great injury to the green ash in shade and shelterbelt plantings, particularly in the central



and northern States, by burrowing through the trunks of the tree and weakening it to the extent where it may be overthrown by windstorms. Outright killing of the tree has also occurred under heavy infestations on the poorer sites.

Except when weakened by borers the green ash is considered a tough and resistant species and seldom shows injury due to breakage by sleet storms or high winds. This feature adds much to its popularity since sleet storms and high winds cause considerable damage to many of our other species.

Although in this territory ash seldom grows to a size permitting its exploitation for lumber purposes, its wood is valuable for many farm purposes due to its strength, hardness, stiffness, and shock-resisting ability. These properties, combined with its bending qualities and suitable weight, make it especially desirable for agricultural tool handles and for vehicle construction. It is also quite durable in contact with the soil and is therefore widely used for posts and poles. All of these uses are in addition to its high fuel value in which it exceeds most of our other commonly used species.

Ash has a winged seed which is persistent on the tree well into the winter. Although the seed is not generally recognized as being of much value for wildlife food, it is known that squirrels and birds subsist on it. Since the seed is ordinarily plentiful, the ash is probably of much more importance to wildlife than most of us realize.

In contrast to many of our species, green ash presents few problems to the nurserymen. The seed is usually plentiful and can be collected at low cost. Given proper treatment the seed germinates readily and as a seedling it is subject to very few hazards. Consequently it is one of the cheapest species to grow in the nurseries. In the northern States it is customary to grow it two years in the nursery before distributing for planting, but in the south, due to the longer growing season, it makes excellent stock in one year.

In conclusion it appears proper to pay one final tribute to this species by pointing out that thus far on our planting operations the survival of green ash is exceeded by only one species (honeylocust.) The average survival of green ash for the Project as a whole is better than 80%.

- Harold E. Engstrom, R.O.

#### MOTHER NATURE vs. SPRING PLANTING

It would seem - to judge from our weather the past two weeks - that there is a conspiracy on to prevent completion of our spring planting at the pre-determined date. Of course we are very grateful for the moisture received from usual spring rains, but unfortunately Mother Nature hasn't been letting us off that easy. Even on April 1, when ordinarily it wouldn't be difficult to find at least one robin heralding the arrival of Madame Spring, the north wind only howled the louder - and colder. But all things come to an end, and doubtless the weather man will be giving us that much-needed break very soon. And when he does, we plan to make up all time lost, and then some.

- Floyd W. Hougland, Nebr.

#### HIGH LIGHTS OF FISCAL AGENTS' MEETING

The Fiscal Agents' meeting, first to be held since the Portland meeting of 1927, convened in San Francisco March 14 with H. I. Loving, Chief of Fiscal Control, wielding the gavel.

Roll call revealed only one absentee - Oscar Wold of Region One - who was unable to attend on account of illness. LaVaughn Beaman, his Deputy, reported as the Region One representative and proved to be an able pinch-hitter. Those present were: Loving and Zimmerli, Washington Office; Beaman, Region 1; Buckner, Region 2; Morris, Region 3; Stratton, Region 4; Lackey and Wilsey, Region 5; Cousins, Region 6; Mahurin, Region 7; Marshall, Region 8; Schoonover, Region 9; Ward, Region 10; Thompson, Forest Products Laboratory; and myself for the Prairie States Forestry Project.

All activities of the Divisions were discussed, but with particular emphasis on organization and administration; fund, receipt, cost, property and stores accounting including practicability of machine accounting; audit and inspection. A number of resolutions were adopted and transmitted to the Washington Office for approval. It is hoped information relative to approved items will be available shortly.

The opportunity for exchange of ideas and discussion of problems was decidedly beneficial to everyone attending.

Off-duty enterprises were amply provided for by our many friends in Region Five, California Experiment Station, and the Oakland Supply Depot. Messrs. Kotok, Lackey and Haynie are deserving of special mention in this respect.

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to attend as the representative of this Project.

- M. R. Scott, R.O.

#### WILD AND WOOLY KINSLEY

During the latter 70's of the last century a Texas cowboy, obviously drunk, climbed aboard a Santa Fe passenger train at a town in eastern Kansas. Pulling a handful of gold coins and bills of large denomination from his pocket, he shoved them toward the conductor and, between hiccups, announced loudly that he wanted a ticket to Hell. The conductor looked at him a moment.

"All right," he said mildly. "Give me two dollars and fifty cents, and get off at Dodge City."

Such is the rich, somewhat hectic, historical background and heritage of the Kinsley District. Since early in the last century, this portion of western Kansas has known more than its rightful share of grim and violent action. The old Santa Fe trail meandered its rutted way through the middle of the district, and the most dangerous portions of the trail from the standpoint of Indian attack were along that area now within or near the bounds of the district. Pawnee Rock, old Fort Zarah, Fort Larned, Coon Creek, the Cimarron Crossing of the Arkansas where the high, dry and dangerous short cut to Santa Fe departed from the main trail, all are in the immediate vicinity of Kinsley. All of them have at one time or another seen more than one



massacre of trading and emigrant trains and even large bodies of Federal Soldiers by fierce bands of predatory Pawnees, Comanches, Kiowas, or Arapahoes. During the entire midportion of the past century, parties of more than one man or less than 200 men took their lives in their hands when they ventured along the Trail in this area, and the chances were great that their hair would be lifted if they traveled in that wise. The route of the Trail through this perilous 100-mile stretch was literally lined with the graves of Indian victims and the skeletons of pack animals and oxen, as well as the ruins of wagons and other traveling equipment. Many were the bands of traders, hunters, and travelers numbering over 100 men which disappeared along this stretch, never to be seen alive thereafter.

After the completion of the Santa Fe Railway in the late 70's through this area, the Indians were at last subdued. Then came the short and colorful era of the professional buffalo hunter, with his heavy Sharps or Spencer buffalo rifle who, in the period of seven or eight short years, completely wiped out the enormous herds of bison which once roamed this portion of the Great Plains. It was during this period that Dodge City sprung up, and it at once became the greatest shipping point for buffalo hides in North America. After the practical extermination of the buffalo, Dodge became the shipping point and northern terminus of the Texas cattle trade, which had veered west from Abilene, Ellsworth, and Wichita during the early 80's. Enormous herds of wild Texas longhorns, pushed along by cowboys scarcely less wild, were "trailed in" over the Texas Cattle Trail and shipped on the Santa Fe at Dodge. It was during this period that the name Dodge City became the synonym for everything wild and wooly, and as one pioneer editor aptly phrased it, was the "beautiful, bibulous Babylon of the frontier."

Now all that is changed. Where once the fierce Pawnee and Kiowa stealthily stalked a trading caravan or stage coach en route to Santa Fe or Independence, the Kansas wheat farmer prepares to reap his golden harvest, or a Forest Service crew plants a shelterbelt strip. The rutted, meandering Trail has now become a modern highway, with only granite markers scattered along its route to remind the passing motorist that here his predecessors inched their way slowly and painfully along, expecting momentarily to hear the shrill war whoop of marauding Redskins. Pawnee Rock is no longer a rocky citadel for embattled travelers, nor do blue-coated soldiers parade on the quadrangle at Fort Larned. Wyatt Earp no longer "buffaloes" some rambunctious and "lickered up" Texas cowpuncher with the barrel of his Colt "Buntline Special" along Front Street in Dodge City, and the enormous herds of bison and antelope no longer blacken the rolling stretches of buffalo grass. All that is now gone. To the west, even the tough and hardy buffalo grass has receded before the triple menace of drought, dust, and overgrazing. The rolling prairies of Ford, Pawnee, and Edwards Counties are now long vistas of growing wheat, broken only by scattering groves of old trees or the long low line of a young Forest Service shelterbelt planting. A two-story white farmhouse has replaced the "soddy" of the pioneer, and the modern counterpart of the creaking prairie schooner is a speeding transport truck. But so sudden has been this revolution of the wheel of progress that the last faint echo of the trail-driver's night herd song still lingers on the breeze.

- Victor O. Goodwin, Kans.



: KANSAS :

The State Office force greatly appreciated a call recently by Mrs. Malcolm Stuart who stopped in Manhattan enroute to Topeka. Katie says that she and Malcolm are enjoying Lincoln.

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The golf bug is already taking its toll among the local Forest Service force. Gosnell, Swim and Hall have already taken to the turf. All scores thus far are off the record. Property Clerk Ray Burns reports the shortage of some "tally whackers" from stock and, in an effort to locate the same, has been asking some rather pointed questions of the aforementioned aspirants whose scores it is definitely rumored, have a tendency to mount into three digits. Swim's golf stock was upped several points when he recently received a sporty new golf bag with all the extras and spares as a gift from the personnel of the Nebraska State Office.

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The Kansas Forest Service personnel has recently been increased through the employment of the following persons: Victor A. Griswold has been appointed as Junior Foreman at Hutchinson; James D. Rose, Lloyd Houston, and A. Lex Evans have been appointed as Junior Clerk-Stenographers at St. John, Hutchinson, and Kingman, respectively.

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At an organization meeting of a Manhattan Lions Club on April 4, Harold Swim was chosen as vice-president of the club. Gosnell and Hall were enrolled as charter members.

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Senior Clerk Rosenwald plans to have his family moved from Fargo, North Dakota to Manhattan by the middle of April.

- John D. Hall

Need Rain? Speak to "Weatherman" Gosnell. Perhaps he has a rabbit's foot, but just as the Manhattan Nursery begins to need rain and on the day plans are being made for irrigation--we have rain and more rain. Wanta buy a secret, Nebraska?

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Virginia Martin smiled her way into our office and smiled her way back to the Hutchinson Nursery (and Bill) on April Fools Day. We enjoyed your visit, Virginia--no foolin'.

- Mary A. Mullen

: OKLAHOMA :

A blizzard in April, with literally "Feets" of snow piled up in drifts may not be reportable news in our sister States to the north of us, but such an event is sure enough news in Oklahoma. A storm of this description hit the greater portion of the State on April 6 and continued through the 7th and 8th. Traffic was blocked on some of the highways, and many cars were trapped in ensnaring snowdrifts and were completely covered after abandonment by their occupants. Drifts were 10 to 14 feet deep in some places. Record freezes followed the storm in many sections of the State, with Kenton and Goodwell in the Panhandle recording the lowest reading--15°. Fruit, gardens, wheat, oats, and alfalfa were damaged considerably by the frost, and some animals and hundreds of poultry perished in the storm and frost. Incidentally, Dave Olson, Jack Nelson, and Max Pfaender were among those marooned in Elk City for a couple of days. The Weather Bureau reports

that this is the first time in the history of the Bureau here (47 years) that a measurable quantity of snow has fallen in any but the extreme western portion of the State during the month of April.

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The return of detailed men and the appointment of additional forces have changed the personnel picture here considerably. Two Junior Clerk-Stenographers, Earl H. Kissick and S. L. White, have been appointed in an attempt to fill the gap resulting from the return to South Dakota and Nebraska of Senior Clerks W. E. Lane and Harold D. Cramer. Junior Foreman Claude S. Asp, Therone I. Faris, Wm. G. Kunkle, and Reginald Reynolds have been appointed to bolster the field organization since the return to their home States of Bruce Arnold, Walter F. Cozine, Carl O. Davis, Harold Devick, Harry Eaton, M. K. Meines, Walter S. Palmer, Charles F. Pears, and Edwin C. Wilbur.

Assistant Forester Elvin K. Ferrell has been detailed to South Dakota to assist with the planting operations there, and Associate Forester Max Pfaender has been detailed to this Unit to assist in planting, cultivation, and nursery activities.

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Another planting season is behind us. Our 1,000 mile quota has been reached and exceeded. This attainment has not been without some difficulties and considerable hard work, but there is a great deal of satisfaction in it, and an inspiration for greater future accomplishments.

- A. N. Butler

: REGIONAL OFFICE :

We regret the departure April 3 of Mr. and Mrs. Harry K. Ebel, after the completion of the latter's detail to the Division of Fiscal Control. We are also sorry that in spite of our best efforts at the national indoor pastime, Mr. Ebel's social activities resulted in a net financial gain (or so he told the missus). Seriously, though, his assistance during the past three months has been very much appreciated in the Division, and we thank the North Dakota Office for his release.

- Robert L. Bennett, R.O.

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Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Scott (Mr. Scott is our new Fiscal Agent), entertained the members of the Division of Fiscal Control at a delightful party on Thursday evening, April 14. Bridge was the main diversion, with those two experts (? !), the writer and Mr. Bennett carrying home the loot. Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Stuart were additional guests. A very pleasant time was reported by all, and we say again to the Scotts, "Thank you."

- Olive Peterson, R.O.

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An item we overlooked mentioning in the last issue was the appointment of Miss Margy Pedersen to the Division of Operation, and though belated, we now say "Welcome, Margy."

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With the dissolving of Range Management activities, Mr. Peterson has been assigned to the Division of Information and Education in Milwaukee, and Mr. Baird has gone to Fort Collins, Colorado. We're going to miss Peterson's spontaneous ideas on all subjects from infant care to farming, and Baird's candid camera sneaking up on us at the most inappropriate moments.

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We're glad to have Mr. Wulf at his old stand in Fiscal Control, and envy him that nice coat of tan he acquired "down South."

- Lucille E. Clark, R.O.